

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: CLAIMS

A local communication system comprising:

5 a first cluster of devices interconnected for the communication of
messages via a first data bus and in accordance with a first set of
communication protocols;

a second cluster of devices interconnected for the communication of messages via a second data bus and in accordance with said first set of communication protocols; and

a data channel linking a device of said first cluster and a device of said second cluster, said data channel supporting communication of messages in accordance with a second set of communications protocols;

wherein a device of the first cluster holds a stored software
15 representation of operational features of a selected device of the second cluster
and any device of the first cluster wishing to interact with said selected device
instead interacts with said stored representation.

2. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said stored
20 representation is generated by said selected device and transmitted via said
data channel to said device of the first cluster.

3. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said stored representation is modified in response to limitations of said data channel.

4. A system as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said stored representation is modified, on receipt by said device of the first cluster, in response to limitations of said data channel.

30 5. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said stored representation models said selected device as if it were a device of the first cluster.

6. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the said device of the first cluster holding the stored representation is that device of the first cluster to which the data channel is connected.

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5 7. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said data channel is a wireless link.

8. A communications ~~device~~ *Bl* having the technical features of a cluster-connected device in a system as claimed in Claim 1.

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